project 2.1: visual definition book: definitions

your second project will be the creation of a visual definition book. as you might guess, a visual definition book relies on visual cues to make associations and to learn. visual definitions take many forms and can expand to include things like instructions. it is a way to help people understand without the use of text.

in this case, we will be visually defining terms associated with the various parts of letter-forms. typically called 'anatomy', letters are made up of different parts that create their distinct design and character. getting to know these "parts" will help you to see differences in type and type design.

design problem

to create a series of visual definitions of type anatomy. the definition must not rely on text for understanding, but instead on a visual scheme of your design.

part one: definitions

the raw material for your book will be the following terms associated with the various parts of letterforms. please find definitions for all.

font aperture apex foot arc glyph arm hairline hanging figures ascender italic axis (or stress) ball terminal kerning baseline leading beak leg body lining figures link

bowl link
bracket (or filet) loop
cap height overshoot
counter point
crossbar pica
cross stroke roman

display sans serif (grotesk)
double story serif (antiqua)
ear shoulder
eye single story
family small caps

spine spur stem style tracking unicase vertex weight

x-height